

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 A-01 DHA-02 OC-06 CCO-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 PER-01

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R 111450Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7269

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 6504

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT,UR, US

SUBJECT: EMBASSY PROTESTS CAMPAIGN OF SLANDER AGAINST EMBASSY
OFFICERS

REF: A. MOSCOW 6353, B. MOSCOW 6364

1. SUMMARY. DCM CALLED ON KOMPLEKTOV OF MFA MAY 11 AND LEFT NON-PAPER PROTESTING SOVIET PRESS CAMPAIGN AGAINST PRESENT AND FORMER OFFICERS OF THE EMBASSY. KOMPLEKOTV STOOD HIS GROUND, ARGUING THAT "FACTS ARE FACTS," BUT DID NOT REITERATE OR ELABORATE CHARGES AGAINST PRESEL. END SUMMARY.

2. TEXT OF NON-PAPER FOLLOWS. BEGIN TEXT. ARTICLES IN IZVESTIYA FOR MARCH 4 AND MAY 7 MADE ACCUSATIONS AGAINST A NUMBER OF PEOPLE, AMONG THEM A CURRENT MEMBER OF THE EMBASSY.

AS THE EMBASSY STATED PUBLICLY WHEN THE ACCUSATIONS WERE FIRST MADE, "WE CONSIDER THIS A CLASSICAL PIECE OF DISINFORMATION INTERLACED WITH SLANDER AND INNUENDO."

INSOFAR AS THE ACCUSATIONS THAT WERE MADE AND REPEATED AGAINST FIRST SECRETARY PRESEL ARE CONCERNED,
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THE EMBASSY CAN CATEGORICALLY AND OFFICIALLY STATE THAT HE HAS ENGAGED IN NO ACTIVITIES INCOMPATIBLE WITH HIS DIPLOMATIC STATUS.

THE EMBASSY NOTES THAT ON BOTH OCCASIONS THE ACCUSATIONS WERE CARRIED IN THE ALL-UNION GOVERNMENT PAPER IZVESTIYA AND IT COULD, THEREFORE, BE CONSTRUED BY READERS THAT THESE ACCUSATIONS REPRESENT THE CONSIDERED VIEWS OF

THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT. THE EMBASSY FINDS THESE ARTICLES INCOMPATIBLE WITH THE MAINTENANCE OF GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES, WHICH THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT PROFESSES TO SUPPORT.

THE EMBASSY INSISTS THAT STEPS BE TAKEN TO END THIS CAMPAIGN OF SLANDER AGAINST PRESENT AND FORMER OFFICERS OF THE EMBASSY. END TEXT.

3. DCM ADDED THAT HE FELT SOVIET CAMPAIGN AGAINST PRESEL WAS NOT ONLY UNFOUNDED BUT INCOMPREHENSIVLE. SLANDER PUBLISHED BY SOVIET PRESS, INCLUDING THE RECENT ARTICLE IN IZVESTIYA (REF B), DID NOT SERVE CAUSE OF IMPROVING RELATIONS AND DID NOT CORRESPOND WITH FACTS.

4. KOMPLEKTOV REPLIED THAT HE COULD ANSWER AT ONCE. HE DID NOT AGREE WITH SUBSTANCE OF PROTEST. SOVIET SIDE ALSO DESIRES IMPROVED RELATIONS. UNFORTUNATELY, PRESENT AND PAST ACTIVITIES OF SOME EMBASSY MEMBERS WERE INCOMPATIBLE WITH CORRECT BEHAVIOR AND HAD BEEN THE SUBJECT OF PREVIOUS CONVERSATIONS. HE DID NOT WISH TO EMBARRASS THOSE PRESENT BY MENTIONING NAMES (BELOUSOVITCH ACCOMPANIED DCM). KOMPLEKTOV ARGUED THAT "FACTS ARE FACTS" AND ARE IRREFUTABLE. SOVIET SIDE DOES NOT MAKE CHARGES LIGHTLY; IN THIS CASE IT DID SO WITH A HEAVY HEART. HE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT MEMBERS OF AMERICAN EMBASSY WOULD ACT IN ACCORD WITH THEIR STATUS. HE THEN RECALLED THAT DURING SUMMER OF LAST YEAR, "TIME" MAGAZINE HAD RUN A STORY CHARGING 15 MEMBERS OF SOVIET EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON WITH SPYING. SUCH A STORY OBVIOUSLY DID NOT APPEAR

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SPONTANEOUSLY AND INDEED REFERENCE WAS MADE IN IT TO OFFICIAL SOURCES. IT WAS RIDICULOUS IN SUBSTANCE AND DID NOT SERVE GOOD RELATIONS.

5. DCM POINTED OUT THAT "TIME", UNLIKE IZVESTIYA, WAS NOT AN OFFICIAL GOVERNMENTAL ORGAN. RETURNING TO ISSUE AT HAND, HE REITERATED THAT SPECIFIC CHARGES AGAINST PRESEL WERE SIMPLY UNTRUE; THIS WAS A POLITICAL QUESTION, NOT ONE OF PRESS POLICY. KOMPLEKTOV ANSWERED THAT ANY INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS WAS A POLITICAL QUESTION. DCM SAID THAT U.S. DOES NOT REGARD SOCIAL CONTACT BETWEEN EMBASSY MEMBERS AND SOVIET CITIZENS TO BE UNACCEPTABLE CONDUCT. KOMPLEKTOV CONCLUDED THAT "WE HAVE NAMED NAMES IN THE PAST AND WILL DO SO AGAIN WHENEVER IT IS WARRANTED." HE THEN CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT EMBASSY'S POSITION IS CLEAR AND HE ASSUMED SOVIET POSITION IS TO US AS WELL.

6. COMMENT. IT IS WORTH NOTING THAT KOMPLEKTOV DID

NOT GO INTO SUBSTANCE OF CHARGES AGAINST PRESEL, NOR
DID HE ELABORATE ON THEM. HE ALSO AVOIDED ANY COMMENT
TO EFFECT THAT EMBASSY SHOULD "DRAW APPROPRIATE CONCLUSIONS"
FROM IZVESTIYA ARTICLE--I.E., WITHDRAW PRESEL
VOLUNTARILY.

7. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO CONSIDER SIMILAR APPROACH TO
SOVIET EMBASSY WASHINGTON.
TOON

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Message Attributes

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